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INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PARM, CCD
SUBJECT: CCD: TEXT OF SOVIET STATEMENT ON "NUCLEAR NEUTRON WEAPONS," MARCH 9, 1978

REF: GENEVA 3705

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1. IN TABLING A DRAFT CONVENTION IN THE CCD ON MARCH 9 ON "NUCLEAR NEUTRON WEAPONS," SOV REP (LIKHATCHEV) MADE A STATEMENT ATTACKING THE NEUTRON BOMB AND CALLING FOR CCD INVOLVEMENT IN THE ISSUE. TEXT OF U.S. RESPONSE CONTAINED REFTEL.

2. UNOFFICIAL SOVIET DEL TRANSLATION OF SOVIET STATEMENT

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FOLLOWS.

BEGIN TEXT:

AMONG THE QUESTIONS WHICH ARE IN THE FOCUS OF ATTENTION OF THE COMMITTEE ON DISARMAMENT SUCH AN IMPORTANT PROBLEM AS THE ENDING OF THE NUCLEAR ARMS RACE AND NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT OCCUPIES A PARTICULAR PLACE. AND THIS IS NOT BY MERE CHANCE. IT IS PRECISELY THIS TYPE OF WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION THAT ALREADY MADE NUMEROUS VICTIMS WHICH IS A MOST DANGEROUS ONE. CONSISTENTLY COMING OUT IN FAVOUR OF CURBING THE ARMS RACE AND FOR DISARMAMENT THE SOVIET UNION PROPOSED AND PROPOSES AT A NUMBER OF INTERNATIONAL FORUMS, AND IN PARTICULAR, IN THE COMMITTEE ON DISARMAMENT TO TAKE RADICAL AND FAR-REACHING MEASURES IN THE FIELD OF NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT.

FIRST AGREEMENTS HAVE BEEN REACHED IN RECENT YEARS WHICH BLOCK SOME CHANNELS OF THE ARMS RACE, IN PARTICULAR OF THE NUCLEAR ARMS RACE. THIS CONTRIBUTED TO THE DEEPENING OF INTERNATIONAL DETENTE AND TO THE STRENGTHENING OF THE SECURITY OF PEOPLES.

UNDER THE PRESENT CONDITIONS IT HAS BECOME NECESSARY THAT ALL STATES REACH AGREEMENT ON A SIMULTANEOUS HALT IN THE PRODUCTION OF ANY NUCLEAR WEAPONS. MOREOVER, THE TASK CONSISTS IN THAT, AT THE SAME TIME, THE NUCLEAR POWERS

UNDERTAKE TO MAKE START ON THE GRADUAL REDUCTION OF EXISTING STOCKPILES OF SUCH WEAPONS AND MOVE TOWARDS THEIR COMPLETE DESTRUCTION.

AT PRESENT, HOWEVER, PERSISTENTLY ATTEMPTS ARE MADE TO IMPOSE ON THE WORLD A NEW MEANS OF WARFARE - NUCLEAR NEUTRON WEAPONS - A NEUTRON BOMB WHICH STANDS IN THE SAME ROW WITH SUCH CRUEL AND BARBARIC TYPES OF WEAPONS AS BACTERIOLOGICAL AND CHEMICAL WEAPONS.

THOSE WHO CREATED THIS NEW VARIETY OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS ARE TRYING BY DIFFERENT ARGUMENTS TO COVER UP THE TRUE NATURE OF THE NEUTRON NUCLEAR WEAPON AND THUS TO HAVE A FAVOURABLE POSSIBILITY TO LEGALIZE THAT WEAPON.

THE WORLD IS ALREADY SUFFICIENTLY AMPLY INFORMED ON THE DESTRUCTIVE NATURE OF THIS SOPHISTICATED WEAPON WHICH IS DESIGNED, FIRST AND FOREMOST, FOR KILLING PEOPLE AND WE DO NOT SEE ANY NEED TO SPEAK ABOUT THE NATURE OF THIS WEAPON IN DETAIL. AT THE SAME TIME, WE WOULD LIKE TO DWELL IN THIS CONNECTION ONLY ON SOME ARGUMENTS WHICH ARE BEING USED BY THE ADVOCATES OF THIS WEAPON WHO STRIVE TO MISLEAD

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THE PEOPLES AND OPEN THE ROAD FOR A NEUTRON BOMB.

THEY ARE TRYING TO SUGGEST, FOR EXAMPLE, THAT A NEUTRON BOMB IS A CONVENTIONAL NUCLEAR WEAPON WHICH ONLY HAS AN ENHANCED NEUTRON RADIATION YIELD ACCOMPANIED BY REDUCED SHOCK WAVE EFFECT. THEY ARE TRYING TO PASS ALMOST FOR BLESSING THE FACT THAT ITS ACTION IS AIMED, FIRST OF ALL, AT ANNIHILATING PEOPLE ACCOMPANIED BY A RELATIVELY LESSER DAMAGE TO MILITARY EQUIPMENT AND STRUCTURES. IT IS NECESSARY, HOWEVER, TO STATE WITH ALL CLARITY THAT THE

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NUCLEAR NEUTRON WEAPON IS QUALITATIVELY A NEW VARIETY OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS WHICH COMBINES PROPERTIES PECULIAR TO THIS WEAPON AS WELL AS PROPERTIES OF RADIOLOGICAL WEAPONS.

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AS IS KNOWN, THE MAIN CARRIER OF LETHAL ENERGY IN A NEUTRON BOMB EXPLOSION IS A POWERFUL FLOW OF NEUTRONS WHICH EXCEEDS DOZENS TIMES THE NEUTRON FLOW OF A TRADITIONAL NUCLEAR WEAPON EXPLOSION OF THE SAME YIELD. THE BIOLOGICAL EFFECT
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OF NEUTRONS ON A LIVING ORGANISM IS IN THIS CASE TEN TIMES OR EVEN GREATER THAN THE EFFECT OF OTHER RADIOACTIVE EMANATIONS PRODUCED BY A NUCLEAR WEAPON EXPLOSION. THUS, AN EXPLOSION OF ONE NEUTRON AMMUNITION - FROM THE VIEW POINT OF ITS RADIOACTIVE DESTRUCTIVE EFFECT ON HUMAN-ORGANISM-EQUALS TO AN EXPLOSION OF TENS OF TRADITIONAL NUCLEAR AMMUNITIONS OF SIMILAR POWER. AT THE SAME TIME ONE SHOULD NOT FORGET THE DESTRUCTIVE GENETIC CONSEQUENCES OF THE USE OF NEUTRON WEAPONS. SCIENTISTS BELIEVE THAT A LONG-TERM, SOMETIMES FATAL, BIOLOGICAL DAMAGE FROM NEUTRON RADIATION WILL BE SUFFERED PRACTICALLY BY ALL WHO WILL HAPPEN TO BE IN THE ZONE OF THE NEUTRON FLOW EFFECT AFTER THE EXPLOSION OF A NEUTRON AMMUNITION. DEPENDING ON THE RADIATION DOZES, THE IMPACT OF THE RADIATION WILL BE FELT BY THOSE REMAINING ALIVE FOR HOURS, DAYS, WEEKS, YEARS AND DECADES. PEOPLE AFFECTED BY RADIATION WILL HAVE DEFECTIVE AND MERELY ABNORMAL CHILDREN.

SOME PEOPLE ASSERT THAT THE NUCLEAR NEUTRON WEAPON IS A "CLEAN" WEAPON ON THE GROUNDS THAT IT ALLEDGEDLY CONTAMIN-ATES IN LESSER DEGREE THE LOCALITY BY RADIOACTIVE MATERIALS HOWEVER, THEY PASS IN SILENCE THE FACT THAT A POWERFUL NEUTRON FLOW PRODUCED BY AN EXPLOSION OF A NEUTRON CHARGE MAY BE USED FOR PRODUCING POWERFUL INDUCED RADIOACTIVITY, INCLUDING THAT ON THE GROUND, IN MILITARY EQUIPMENT AND IN STRUCTURES FOR A LONG PERIOD OF TIME.

THEY SAY THAT THE NULCEAR NEUTRON WEAPON IS A TACTICAL WEAPON OF RELATIVELY SMALL POWER AND OF LIMITED RANGE OF ACTION. BUT THE WORLD IS WELL AWARE OF THE LOGIC OF THE NUCLEAR ARMS RACE WHICH BEGAN IN 1945 WHEN THE FIRST NUCLEAR BOMBS-OF A SMALL YIELD BY MODERN CONCEPTS - WERE DROPPED AT HIROSHIMA AND NAGASAKI. IT TOOK LESS THAN TEN
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YEARS FOR THERMONUCLEAR BOMBS TO APPEAR WHOSE YIELD EXCEEDED TENS AND HUNDREDS TIMES THE YIELD OF THE FIRST NUCLEAR BOMB. AS TO THE RANGE OF ACTION, IF AT PRESENT THEY TALK ABOUT USING NEUTRON WEAPONS WITH LIMITED RANGE CARRIERS, THEN NOTHING WILL PREVENT TOMORROW THE POSSESSOR

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OF THIS WEAPON FROM USING IT WITH CARRIERS OF GREATER
RADIUS OF ACTION.
PARTICULARLY DANGEROUS ARE THE ATTEMPTS TO PRESENT THE
NEUTRON WEAPON AS A TACTICAL ONE ALSO BECAUSE IN THIS WAY
THEY TRY TO ERASE THE DISTINCTION BETWEEN CONVENTIONAL AND
NUCLEAR ARMS, TO MAKE TRANSITION TO A NUCLEAR WAR UNNOTICE-
ABLE WITH ALL THE ENSUING CONSEQUENCES FOR MANKIND.

THUS, AS REGARDS THE ESSENCE OF THE MATTER ONE MAY SAY
WITH EVERY CERTAINTY THAT IN CASE THE PRODUCTION AND DE-
PLOYMENT OF THE NEUTRON WEAPON IS PERMITTED THE WORLD WILL
BE THREATENED BY THE USE OF STILL ANOTHER VARIETY OF
WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION AND THERE WILL BE OPENED YET
ANOTHER AREA OF THE NUCLEAR ARMS RACE WITH ALL THE ENSUING
DANGEROUS CONSEQUENCES AND THEREBY A GREAT BLOW WILL BE
DEALT TO THE HOPES OF THE PEOPLES FOR ELIMINATING THE
THREAT OF NUCLEAR WAR. THE ARMS RACE HAS NEVER ENSURED AND
DOES NOT ENSURE THE SECURITY OF ANY STATE WHATSOEVER BE-
CAUSE WITH EVERY STEP IN THE DEVELOPMENT AND DEPLOYMENT
OF NEW TYPES OF WEAPONS THERE COMES A DANGEROUS STAGE OF
UNCERTAINTY AND THE WORLD BECOMES EVER MORE FRAGILE AND
UNSTABLE. THE MATTER IS THAT THE EMERGENCE OF ANY NEW
WEAPON AND ITS ADOPTION IN SOME COUNTRIES FOR THEIR ARMIES
UNAVOIDABLY TRIGGERS RETALIATORY MEASURES IN OTHER COUN-
TRIES AGAINST WHICH THAT WEAPON IS AIMED. AS FOR THE
SOVIET UNION IT IS RESOLUTELY OPPOSED TO THE DEVELOPMENT
OF THE NEUTRON WEAPON. AT THE SAME TIME THOSE WHO ADVOCATE
THE PRODUCTION AND DEPLOYMENT OF THE NEUTRON WEAPON SHOULD

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CLEARLY REALIZE THAT IF THAT WEAPON IS ADOPTED, WHICH MEANS IT WILL BE DIRECTED AGAINST THE SOVIET UNION, A FACT WHICH NOBODY CONCEALS, OUR COUNTRY WILL BE CONFRONTED WITH THE NEED OF ANSWERING THE CHALLENGE IN ORDER TO ENSURE ITS SECURITY AND THE SECURITY OF ITS ALLIES. CONSEQUENTLY, THE LEVEL OF MILITARY CONFRONTATION WILL NOT DECREASE BUT WILL RISE.
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IT SHOULD BE ALSO TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT THAT THE DEVELOP-MENT AND PROLIFERATION OF NUCLEAR NEUTRON WEAPONS - IF ALREADY NOW A RELIABLE BARRIER IS NOT PUT IN THE WAY OF THIS PROCESS - WOULD UNDERMINE MUTUAL TRUST BETWEEN STATES BOTH IN THE EUROPEAN CONTINENT AND IN THE INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS IN GENERAL. SUCH DEVELOPMENT OF EVENTS WOULD ALSO SERIOUSLY UNDERMINE THE BELIEF OF THE PEOPLES IN THE POSSIBILITY OF SOLVING THE PROBLEM OF DISARMAMENT AND IN THE SUCCESS OF THE ON-GOING NEGOTIATIONS. JOINT ATTEMPTS TO FIND COMMON APPROACHES TO THE SOLUTION OF SUCH DELICATE PROBLEMS WHICH ARE CONNECTED WITH ENSURING THE SECURITY OF SIDES, AS ARE THE PROBLEMS OF DISARMAMENT, ARE MADE IN THE WORLD WHICH DOES REALLY EXIST AND NOT IN A POLITICAL VACUUM.

BESIDES, HISTORY PROVES THAT IT IS MUCH EASIER TO PREVENT THE EMERGENCE AND PROLIFERATION OF ANY NEW WEAPON WHEN IT IS NOT YET IN THE ARSENALS OF STATES THAN TO PROHIBIT IT AFTER IT HAS ALREADY BEEN PRODUCED AND ADOPTED AS ARMAMENT. IT IS PRECISELY FOR THIS REASON THAT IN THE INTERESTS OF ALL THE PEOPLES A RELIABLE BARRIER SHOULD BE ERECTED IN THE WAY OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE NUCLEAR NEU-TRON WEAPON BEFORE IT IS TOO LATE.

IT SHOULD BE REALIZED THAT THE ADOPTION OF A DECISION

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TO START THE PRODUCTION AND DEPLOYMENT OF THE NEUTRON WEAPON WOULD BE COMPARABLE - BY ITS SIGNIFICANCE AND FAR-REACHING CONSEQUENCES - TO THE DECISION TAKEN IN THE PAST ON DEVELOPING HYDROGEN BOMB AFTER THE ATOMIC BOMB.

IT IS WIDELY KNOWN THAT THE PLANS TO START THE PRODUCTION AND TO DEPLOY THE NEUTRON WEAPON HAVE CAUSED A

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STORM OF PROTESTS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD. THE PROHIBITION OF THIS WEAPON IS ADVOCATED BY MANY GOVERNMENTS, POLITICAL PARTIES, PUBLIC ORGANIZATIONS OF THE WORLD, BY PEOPLE OF DIFFERENT POLITICAL AND SOCIAL CONVICTIONS.

ONE MIGHT CITE IN THIS CONNECTION NUMEROUS FACTS, BUT IT WILL SUFFICE TO REFER TO THE LATEST ONE, THE RECENT GENEVA NGO CONFERENCE DEVOTED TO DISARMAMENT. THE MESSAGE ADOPTED BY THIS REPRESENTATIVE FORUM IN THE WORK OF WHICH THERE TOOK PART 78 INTERNATIONAL AND 185 NATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS FROM 46 COUNTRIES OF THE WORLD, STATES:

"IMMEDIATE AND URGENT STEPS SHOULD BE TAKEN TO PREVENT DEVELOPMENT, PRODUCTION AND DEPLOYMENT OF ANY NEW VARIETIES OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS, SUCH AS NEUTRON BOMBS WHICH, BY LOWERING THE NUCLEAR THRESHOLD, INCREASE CONSIDERABLY THE DANGER OF ESCALATION OF ANY CONFLICT INTO A FULL-SCALE NUCLEAR CONFLAGRATION AND CONSTITUTE AN IMPORTANT FACTOR IN THE INTENSIFICATION OF THE ARMS RACE. IT IS URGED THAT A CONVENTION BE ENTERED INTO PROHIBITING THE PRODUCTION OR DEPLOYMENT OF ANY SUCH NEW WEAPONS."

THE POSITION OF THE SOVIET UNION ON THIS QUESTION IS WELL-KNOWN. IT HAS BEEN CLEARLY EXPRESSED BY THE GENERAL SECRETARY OF CPSU CENTRAL COMMITTEE, CHAIRMAN OF THE PRESIDIUM OF THE SUPREME SOVIET OF THE USSR L.I. BREZHNEV: "WE MOVE TO REACH AGREEMENT ON A MUTUAL RENUNCIATION OF THE PRODUCTION OF THE NEUTRON BOMB SO AS TO SAVE THE WORLD FROM THE APPEARANCE OF THIS NEW MASS ANNIHILATION WEAPON. THIS IS OUR SINCERE DESIRE, OUR PROPOSAL TO THE WESTERN POWERS." THIS INITIATIVE AS WELL AS OTHER CONCRETE PROPOSALS BY THE SOVIET UNION AIMED AT ENDING THE DANGEROUS ARMS RACE AND AT DISARMAMENT, MEET THE INNERMOST ASPIRATIONS OF ALL THE PEOPLES. THAT IS WHY THIS INITIA-

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TIVE MET WITH A BROAD RESPONSE AND ENTHUSIASTIC SUPPORT
THROUGHOUT THE WORLD. IT IS GRATIFYING THAT IN THE
COMMITTEE ON DISARMAMENT, TOO, A NUMBER OF DELEGATIONS
PRONOUNCED THEMSELVES IN SUPPORT OF THIS PROPOSAL BY THE
USSR. THEY POINTED OUT THAT SUCH AN AUTHORITATIVE ORGAN
AS IS THE COMMITTEE ON DISARMAMENT CANNOT DISASSOCIATE
ITSELF FROM THIS IMPORTANT TOPICAL QUESTION OF DISARMAMENT.
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SEEKING TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE CESSATION OF THE ARMS
RACE, PARTICULARLY IN THE FIELD OF THE MEANS OF MASS
DESTRUCTION, AS WELL AS REALIZING THE DANGER POSED BY THE
NUCLEAR NEUTRON WEAPON FOR PEACE AND SECURITY, THE
SOCIALIST COUNTRIES MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE ON DISARMAMEN,
NAMELY, PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA, CZECHOSLOVAK
SOCIALIST REPUBLIC, GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC, HUNGARIAN

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PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC, MONGOLIAN PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC, POLISH PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC, SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF ROMANIA, UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS PRESENT TODAY FOR THE EXAMINATION BY THE COMMITTEE ON DISARMENT A DRAFT CONVENTION ON THE PROHIBITION OF THE PRODUCTION, STOCKPILING, DEPLOYMENT AND USE OF NUCLEAR NEUTRON WEAPONS.

WE PROPOSE THAT ALL THE STATES PARTIES TO THIS CONVENTION UNDERTAKE NOT TO PRODUCE, STOCKPILE, DEPLOY ANYWHERE OR USE NUCLEAR NEUTRON WEAPONS. CONTROL OVER THE COMPLIANCE WITH THIS CONVENTION WOULD BE EXERCISED BY THE STATES PARTIES THROUGH THE NATIONAL TECHNICAL MEANS OF VERIFICATION WHICH ARE IN THEIR POSSESSION IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE UNIVERSALLY RECOGNIZED RULES OF INTERNATIONAL LAW. BESIDES, THE STATES PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION WOULD UNDERTAKE TO CONSULT ONE ANOTHER AND TO CO-OPERATE INCLUDING THROUGH APPROPRIATE INTERNATIONAL PROCEDURES WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE UNITED NATIONS AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH ITS CHARTER IN SOLVING ANY PROBLEMS WHICH MAY ARISE IN RELATION TO THE OBJECTIVES OF, OR IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROVISIONS OF THIS CONVENTION. A POSSIBILITY IS ALSO PROVIDED FOR LODGING A COMPLAINT WITH THE SECURITY COUNCIL OF THE UNITED NATIONS BY ANY STATE PARTY TO THE PROPOSED CONVENTION WHICH BELIEVES THAT ANY OTHER STATE PARTY MAY BE ACTING IN BREACH OF THE OBLIGATIONS UNDERTAKEN IN THIS UNCLASSIFIED

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INTERNATIONAL LEGAL INSTRUMENT. THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION WOULD UNDERTAKE TO CO-OPERATE IN CARRYING OUT INVESTIGATIONS WHICH THE SECURITY COUNCIL MIGHT INITIATE ON THE BASIS OF THE COMPLAINT RECEIVED BY THE COUNCIL IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THE CHARTER OF THE UNITED NATIONS. THE SECURITY COUNCIL WOULD INFORM ALL THE STATES PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION OF THE RESULTS OF THE INVESTIGATION.

THE ABOVE-STATED PROVISIONS ARE CONTAINED IN DOCUMENT CCD/559 IN THE FIRST TWO ARTICLES OF THE DRAFT CONVENTION. THE REMAINING ARTICLES OF THE DRAFT ARE OF GENERAL LEGAL NATURE.

PRESENTING THE DRAFT CONVENTION ON THE PROHIBITION OF NUCLEAR NEUTRON WEAPONS WE CALL UPON THE MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE TO SUPPORT IT SO THAT ALREADY IN THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE WE COULD START JOINT WORK ON THE PREPARATION OF AN AGREED TEXT OF A NEW CONVENTION IN THE FIELD OF DISARMAMENT. THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT GIVEN A CONSTRUCTIVE APPROACH AND GOOD WILL ON THE PART OF ALL THE MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE ON DISARMAMENT WE COULD REACH AGREEMENT WITHOUT DELAY AND WITH SUCCESS ON SUCH IMPORTANT INTERNATIONAL

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LEGAL DOCUMENT. THIS WOULD BE CERTAINLY ANOTHER MAJOR
REAL CONTRIBUTION TO THE LIMITATION OF NUCLEAR ARMAMENTS,
TO SAVING MANKIND FROM THE THREAT OF NUCLEAR WAR. REACHING
SUCH AGREEMENT IS A NECESSITY, IT WOULD CORRESPOND TO THE
SPIRIT OF OUR TIMES, TO THE INTERESTS OF CONSOLIDATING
PEACE AND DETENT. END TEXT. VANDEN HEUVEL

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SAS ID: 3376575
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CCD: TEXT OF SOVIET STATEMENT ON \"NUCLEAR NEUTRON WEAPONS,\" MARCH 9, 1978
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